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Pallet construction

The present invention relates to pallets.

Pallets constructed of steel have considerable advantages in that they exhibit substantially constant dimension and substantially constant weight, rendering them of considerable utility in high rise storage systems and automated systems, and have considerable durability and weather resistance.

Steel pallets are non-combustible, in contrast to wood, and are lighter than wood for the same dimensions. Wood is also disadvantageous in that it absorbs moisture and is subject to degradation. Steel is also attractive as a material of construction in that it is relatively inexpensive when compared with aluminium and plastic.

Despite these inherent advantages, steel pallets have not come into common usage, and those steel pallets that have been marketed have been heavy, cumbersome and time-consuming to produce, the elements being interconnected by welding.

A pallet comprising parallel spaced-apart stringer elements with deck-forming elements arranged transversely thereof and connected clampingly thereto at each intersection is known from DE—A—2621546. The pallet of the present invention is characterized in that connection at the intersection is achieved by clips (46, 112) mounted to one element (12, 14; 114; 116) and adapted to be inserted into and engaged in slots (18, 20; 134; 166) in the other element.

The preferred embodiment of the present invention is primarily concerned with a steel pallet construction in which the elements are readily formed by suitable metal forming techniques, preferably roll forming, and may be rapidly interconnected using one-piece spring clips. The constructional features, however, may be used in other assemblies and with pallets formed of other materials of construction.

In order that the present invention be more readily understood embodiments thereof will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a single-deck 4-way steel pallet constructed in accordance with one embodiment of the invention;

Figure 2 is a close-up exploded view of the interlocking of the stringer and deck elements of the pallet structure of Figure 1 along with details of the structure of the interconnecting clips;

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken along line III—III of Figure 2 in a disassembled position;

Figure 4 is the same sectional view as Figure 3 but in an assembled position;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a double-deck 4-way steel pallet constructed in accordance with a second embodiment of the invention;

Figure 6 is a close-up detail view of the interlocking of the elements of the pallet structure of Figure 5 along with details of the structure of the interlocking clips;

Figure 7 is a partial sectional view of the assembled pallet taken along line VII—VII of Figure 5; and

Figures 8, 9 and 10 are respectively perspective, elevation and end views of the clips used in the pallet structure of Figures 5 to 7.

Description of Preferred Embodiments

Referring first to the embodiment of Figures 1 to 4 of the drawings, a pallet 10 constructed of, preferably light gauge, steel, preferably corrosion resistant steel, for example, galvanized steel, includes three elongate hollow members or stringer elements 12 and a plurality of deck-forming elongate roll-formed elements 14 joined to the upper surface 16 of the stringer elements 12 at each intersection thereof and spaced apart in relation to each other and generally perpendicular to the stringer elements 12. The deck-forming elements 14 cooperate to provide a load-carrying deck on the top side of the pallet 10. The stringer elements 12 may be formed by welding together roll-formed parts.

In the illustrated embodiment, a single-deck four-way pallet is shown but it will be clear to those skilled in the art that the principles of construction and the interlocking arrangement may be applied to other pallet forms, including single-deck two-way, double-deck two-way, double-deck four-way and semi-double-deck pallets, and/or to other types of assemblies.

The numbers of stringer elements 12 and deck-forming elements 14 in the structure of Figures 1 to 4 is also illustrative and the numbers may be varied as desired, depending on the overall dimensions of the pallet.

In addition, while the illustrated structure of Figures 1 to 4 is described particularly with reference to the pallet parts being constructed of light gauge steel by roll-forming, the principles of construction outlined herein may be applied to pallet parts constructed of heavy gauge steel or any other convenient material of construction, such as, aluminum, and may be formed by any other convenient fabrication technique, such as, extrusion.

At each intersection of the stringer elements 12 and a surface or panel of the deck-forming elements 14, the stringer elements 12 are provided with an elongate slot 18 or 20, formed in the upper surface 16 of the stringer element.

The deck-forming elements 14 have a generally castellated structure which includes first and second elongate parallel coplanar elements 22 and 24 which are joined by an integral member defining a channel 26 therebetween and including an elongate portion 28 situated in

a plane parallel to the coplanar elements 22 and 24 and adapted to engage the upper surface 16 of the stringer element 12 and first and second upright elements 30 and 32 integrally joining the elongate portion 28 and the coplanar elements 22 and 24.

The deck-forming elements 14 also include integral skirt portions 34 and 36 depending from the coplanar elements 22 and 24 respectively, generally perpendicularly thereto at the sides of the deck-forming elements 14 for a distance substantially equal to the depth of the channel 26.

The castellated structure described and illustrated for the deck-forming elements 14 represents a preferred structure for steel parts owing to the ease of roll-forming that structure. However, if desired, the deck-forming elements 14 may have a wholly planar top surface with one or more webs depending therefrom into engagement with the surface 10 of the stringer element 12, such as is described in U.S. Patent No. 4,077,334.

At the lower end of each skirt portion 34 and 36 are integrally-formed flanges 38 and 40 respectively, the flanges extending the length of the skirt portions and being inwardly-directed coplanarly with the elongate portion 28. The inwardly-directed flanges 38 and 40 define panels for engagement with the upper surface 16 of the stringer element 12.

At each intersection with a stringer element 12, the panels defined by flanges 38 and 40 are provided with an elongate slot 42 and a parallel cut-away notch 44. As described in more detail below, the parallel cut-away notch 44 may be replaced by a second parallel elongate slot or the slot 42 may be moved closer to the edge of the flange 38 or 40 and the cut-away notch 44 eliminated. The slot 42 and notch 44 are provided to receive portions of a unitary clip 46 for the purpose of mounting the same on the deck-forming element 14.

As may be seen particularly from Figures 3 and 4, the clip 46, constructed of suitable resilient material, preferably spring steel, has a generally U-shaped body 48 and a pair of oppositely-facing jaws 50 located at the upper extremities of the body 48 for gripping the elongate metal strip 52 between the slot 42 and the cut-away notch 44 to hold the clip 46 to the flange element 38 or 40. The strip 52 is of a substantially constant width.

Arms 47 of the U-shaped body 48 converge towards the upper end when the clip is in its rest or non-deformed position as seen in Figure 2, but are generally parallel to each other when mounted to the flanges 38 and 40 to add to the resiliency of the grip mounting of the clip 46 on the deck-forming element 14.

The arms of the U-shaped body 48 are each provided with a cantilevered wing element, or ramp element, 54 which diverges outwardly and upwardly from the contour of the respective body arm 47 in the direction away from the U-bend or bight portion of the body 48 and then turns inwardly from a shoulder 55 at an outer extremity towards the flange of the jaw 50.

The distance between the shoulder 55 of the ramp element 54 and the lower surface 56 of the lower flange of the jaw 50 is preferably somewhat greater than the thickness of the upper surface 16 of the stringer element 12. The distance between the free end of the ramp element 54 and the surface 56 is somewhat less than the thickness of the upper surface 16 of the stringer element 12.

As may be seen from comparison of Figures 3 and 4, assembly of the stringer element 12 and the deck-forming element 14 at each intersection of the pallet is achieved by inserting the lower U-bend or bight portion of the body 48 of the clip 46 into the respective elongate opening 18 or 20 in the stringer element 12, and pushing the deck-forming element 14 down so that the side edges of the opening 18 or 20 engage the wing or ramp elements 54 resiliently forcing them inwardly towards the remainder of the body member 48 until the side edges of the opening 18 or 20 clear the shoulder portion of the ramp element 54, which then resiliently snaps back towards its original position (see Figure 4) preventing removal of the clip 46 from the respective opening 18 or 20. The wing or ramp element 54 may be provided with a locking tab or the like to permanently mount a stringer element to a deck-forming element.

The interengagement of the clips 46 with the openings 18 and 20 not only results in a sturdy assembly but also prevents longitudinal movement of the deck-forming elements 14 transverse to the stringer elements 12. Further, the interengagement of the clips 46 with the slots 18 and 20 allows a predetermined degree of resilient freedom of the deck element relative to the stringer element 12 in the direction of the axis of the stringer elements 12 but prevents such movement beyond the point when the side walls of the slots 18 or 20 engage the body 48 of the clip 46.

This arrangement arises since, as may be seen in Figure 4, the transverse distance between the arms 47 of the clip 46, when the clip 46 is assembled to the deck-forming element 14, is substantially fixed while the transverse distance between the shoulders 55 of the ramp elements 54 is relatively resilient. Preferably, the width of the slot 18 or 20 is greater than the distance between the arms 47 but less than the distance between the shoulders 55. The deck-forming element 14 thereby is able to move transversely relative to stringer element 12 with a certain degree of resilient freedom until the side edges of slot 18 ot 20 engage the respective arm 47 of the clip 46, at which point further transverse movement is prevented. More preferably, the slot 18 or 20 is only marginally wider than the distance between the arms 47 so that the arms 47

engage the slot edges and thereby contribute to overall rigidity.

This assembly is superior to other assemblies in which panels are joined together since the deck-forming elements 14 have a limited degree of resilient longitudinal freedom allowing them to resiliently absorb shock loads in that direction to prevent fracturing and damage to the elements while still providing a relatively rigid assembly in both the longitudinal and transverse directions.

As may be seen in Figure 4, when the stringer element 12 is assembled to the deck-forming element 14 utilizing the clip 46, the upper surface 16 of the stringer element 12 is retained between the inwardly-turned upper portion 58 of the ramp element 54 and the jaws of the clip 46.

The flexibility of the pallet structure of Figures 1 to 4 permits the pallet structure to absorb vibration and shocks and compensate for minor height and other dimensional variations within the pallet elements and the location of positioning of the pallets. These abilities contrast markedly with the very rigid structure of welded units, which are not able readily to absorb vibration and compensate for the dimensional and positioning variations.

In addition, the use of the mechanical interlock arrangement between the deck-forming elements 14 and the stringer elements 12 utilizing the clips 46 permits ready replacement of damaged parts, which is not the case in welded structures.

Turning now to the embodiment of Figures 5 to 7, there is illustrated therein a steel pallet 110 of modified construction with respect to the pallet 10 of Figures 1 to 4 and utilizing a modified form of clip 112 when compared with the clips 46. The structure of the clips 112 is illustrated in detail in Figures 8 to 10.

The pallet 110, constructed preferably of light gauge steel, more preferably corrosion resistant steel, for example, galvanized steel, includes three roll-formed elongate spaced stringer elements 114, a plurality of elongate roll-formed top deck-board elements 116 located in spaced apart relation with each other and extending transversely of the stringer elements, three spaced roll-formed hollow leg elements 118 depending from the stringer elements 114 and three elongate roll-formed bottom deck-board elements 120 connected to the lower ends of the leg elements 118.

The pallet construction 110 of Figures 5 to 7 differs from that of Figures 1 to 4 in that the welding operations and their time-consuming character required for construction of the stringer elements 12 of the pallet 10 are eliminated. In the pallet 110, the component parts are held together by clips 112.

In the illustrated embodiment, a double-deck four-way pallet is shown but it will be clear to those skilled in the art that the principles of construction and the interlocking arrangement may be applied to other pallet forms, including single-deck four-way, single-deck two-way and double-deck two-way, as well as other types of assemblies.

The numbers of stringer elements 114, deck-board elements 116 and 120 and hollow leg elements 118 illustrated in Figures 5 to 7 are used to illustrate the principles of construction of the pallet 110. Any desired number of such elements may be used, depending on the size and intended use of the pallet.

While the illustrated structure of Figures 5 to 7 is described particularly with reference to the pallet parts being constructed of light gauge steel by roll-forming, the principles of construction outlined herein may be applied to pallet parts constructed of heavy gauge steel or other convenient material of construction, such as, aluminum, and may be formed by any other convenient fabrication technique, such as, extrusion.

The stringer elements 114 are elongate members having an elongate planar panel portion 122 receiving the deck-board elements 116 thereon and integral depending side wall or skirt portions 124 defining with the underside of the panel portion 122 a leg receiving channel 126. The side wall portions terminate in integral outwardly-directed perpendicular wall portions 128 which themselves terminate in integral upwardly-directed perpendicular wall portions 130 extending parallel to and for the height of the skirt portions 124, the wall portions 130 terminating in integral inwardly-directed flange portions 132 which provide additional bearing surfaces for the deck-board elements 116. The arrangement of integral wall portions 124, 128 and 130 and flange 132 define generally rectangularly-shaped elongate channels at each side of the planar panel portion 122.

At each intersection of the stringer elements 114 and panel-like engaging portions of upper deck-board elements 116, the stringer elements 114 are provided with transverse elongate slots 134, formed through the panel portion 122. The slots 134 have a narrower portion 136 adjacent the longitudinal ends thereof and a wider portion 138 extending between the narrower portions 136. The purpose of this construction will become apparent below.

Both the upper deck-board elements 116 and the lower deck-board elements 120 have the same structure although used in opposite orientations. The structure of these elements will be described with respect to the upper deck-board elements 116. The upper deck-board elements 116 have a generally castellated cross-section which includes first and second elongate coplanar elements 140 and 142 which are joined by an integral member defining a channel 144 and including an elongate portion 146 situated in a plane parallel to the coplanar elements 140 and 142 to engage the upper surface of the planar portion 122 and the flange portions 132 of the

stringer 114.

The deck-board elements 116 further include first and second upright elements 148 and 150 integrally joining the elongate portion 146 and the coplanar portions 140 and 142. Integral skirt portions 152 and 154 depend from the coplanar elements 140 and 142 respectively, generally perpendicularly thereto at the sides of the deck-board elements 116, for a distance substantially equal to the depth of the channel 144. The skirt portions 152 and 154 are each provided with an indented elongage groove extending the length thereof to impart strength to the deck-board elements 116.

At the lower end of the skirt portions 152 and 154 are integrally-formed inwardly-directed flanges 156 and 158, respectively, which extend the length of the skirt portions and extend coplanarly with the elongate portion 146. The inwardly-directed flanges 156 and 158 define panels for engagement with the planar portions 122 and the flanges 132 of the stringer elements 114.

At each intersection of an upper deck-board element 116 with a stringer element 114, the panels defined by the flanges 156 and 158 are provided with an elongate slot 160 and a parallel cut-away notch 162. The parallel cut-away notch 162 may be replaced by a second parallel elongate slot or the slot 160 may be moved closer to the edge of the flange 156 or 158 and the cut-away notch 162 eliminated. The slot 160 and notch 162 are provided to receive portions of the unitary clip 112 for the purposes of mounting the same on the deck-board element 116 (or 120).

Each leg element 118 consists of a generally rectangularly cross-sectioned member having its longer dimension vertical and is roll-formed from a single metal piece so that the ends 164 of the metal piece are very closely located to each other, and preferably in abutting relationship. The side walls of the leg element 118 are waisted to impart structural strength thereto. The leg elements 118 are received in abutting interference fit relationship with the channel 126 formed by the stringer elements 114, with the ends 164 being prevented from opening by entrapment in the channel 126.

Slots 166 of the same shape and form as and aligned with slots 134 are provided in the portion of the leg element 118 abutting the underside of the panel portion 122 to receive the clips 112 therethrough. Slots 168 are provided in the lower surface of the leg element 118 of the same shape and form as slots 166 to receive therethrough the clips 112 mounted on lower deck-board elements 120 to assemble the lower deck-board elements 120 with the remainder of the pallet.

Where a single deck pallet is required, the latter slots may be omitted. Where a two-way pallet is required, the spaced leg elements 118 may be provided as a continuous leg element extending from one extremity of the stringer element 114 to the other.

As may be particularly seen, particularly from Figures 8 to 10, each clip 112, constructed of suitable resilient material, preferably spring steel, has a generally U-shaped body 170 and a pair of oppositely facing jaws 172 located at the upper extremities of the body 170 for gripping the elongate metal strip 174 of substantially constant width located between the slot 160 and the cut-away notch 162 to hold the clip element 112 to the flange 156 or 158.

The jaws 172 also include integral diverging wing members 176 to facilitate assembly of the clip 112 to the deck board elements 116 or 120. The arms 178 of the U-shaped body 170 converge slightly towards the jaws thereof when the clip element 112 is in its rest or non-deformed position (see Figure 10) but are generally parallel to each other when mounted to the flanges 156 and 158 to add to the resiliency of the grip mounting of the clip 112 on the deck-board 116 or 120, as may be seen in Figure 7.

The arms 178 of the U-shaped body 170 are each provided with a cantilevered wing element, or ramp element 180 having a transverse dimension substantially the length of the wider portion 138 of the slot 134. The ramp element 180 diverges outwardly from the contour of the respective body arm 178 in the direction away from the U-bend or bight portion of the body 170 and then has an inwardly turned portion 182 extending from a shoulder 184 towards the adjacent jaw 172 to terminate in planar alignment with the lower surface of the jaw 172, as may be seen from Figures 8 and 10. The shoulders 184 are spaced apart a distance greater than the transverse dimension of the slot 134. A locking tab 186 is provided extending oppositely from the portion 182 for a short distance towards the adjacent jaw 172.

The body 170 has cut-aways 188 at each longitudinal extremity adjacent the bight portion thereof to assist in location and assembly of the pallet elements. Such cut-aways may be omitted, if desired.

The clip 112 is mounted to the deck-board element 116 or 120 by engaging the wing members 176 with the slot 160 and notch 162 and pushing the clip 112 towards the flange 156 or 158 to spread the jaws 172 apart until the sides of the metal strip 174 pass the shoulder defined by the jaws 172 and the wing members 176, whereupon the jaws 172 of the clip 112 snap into resilient engagement with the opposite sides of the metal strip 174.

Assembly of the deck-board elements 116 and 120 with clips 112 attached thereto with the remainder of the pallet is initiated by locating, with the assistance of the cut-aways 188, the U-bend or bight portion of the clip 112 in the respective aligned elongate slot 134 and 166 of the stringer element 114 and the leg element 118 respectively, for the upper deck-

board elements 116 or into the respective openings 168 in the leg elements 118 for the lower deck-board elements 120. The deck-board element 116 or 120 is then pushed towards the respective slots, so that the side edges of the wider portions 138 of the respective slots engage the wing or ramp elements 180 resiliently forcing them inwardly towards the remainder of the body member 170 until the side edges of the openings clear the shoulders 184. The ramp elements 180 then resiliently snap back towards the original position to prevent removal of the clip 112 from the respective slot. In this assembled position, the inwardly-turned portions 182 extend into engagement with the side edges of the wider portion 138 of the slots while the remainder of the transverse length of the body arm 178 engages the narrow portion 136 of the slots. The locking tabs 186 result in a substantially permanent assembly.

As seen in Figure 7, the clips 112 assemble the upper deck-board element 116 with the stringer element 114 and the leg elements 118. The clips 112 also assemble the lower deck-board elements 120 with the leg elements 118. The clips 112 used in the pallet structure of Figures 5 to 7, impart rigidity and limited resiliency characteristics to the pallet 110 similar to those imparted by the clips 46 in the pallet 10 of Figures 1 to 4 and discussed in more detail above with respect thereto.

The clips 112 differ from clips 46, however, in important and beneficial respects. Thus, the clips 112 have divergent wing members 176 to permit more ready and rapid mounting of the clips 112 on the deck-board elements 116 and 120 than is the case with the clips 46. Further, the inwardly-directed portions 182 of the ramp elements 180 extend further inwardly than is the case for clips 46 so as to engage the slot walls. This ramp element structure permits both the multiple metal thicknesses associated with assembly of the upper deck-board elements 116 with the stringer elements 114 and the leg elements 118 and the lesser metal thickness associated with assembly to the lower deck-board elements 120 with the leg elements 118 to be accommodated, which is not the case with clip 46.

Claims

1. A pallet comprising parallel spaced-apart stringer elements (12; 114) with deck-forming elements (14; 116) arranged transversely thereof and connected clampingly thereto at each intersection, characterized in that connection at the intersection is achieved by clips (46, 112) mounted to one element (12, 14; 114; 116) and adapted to be inserted into and engaged in slots (18, 20; 134; 166) in the other element.

2. A pallet according to claim 1, characterized in that the stringer-elements (12; 114) and the deck-forming elements (14; 116) are produced from steel, while the clips (46; 112), separable from the elements, are produced in one piece from spring-steel.

3. A pallet according to claim 2, characterized in that the stringer-elements (114) comprise a plurality of longitudinally spaced, hollow leg elements (118).

4. A pallet according to claim 3, characterized in that the clips (112) are adapted to be fitted to inwardly-directed flanges (156, 158) of the deck-forming elements (116), while the slots (134, 136) are provided in the supporting surface (122) of the stringer-elements (114) and, if necessary, of the leg elements (118).

5. A pallet according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the clips (46, 112) comprise opposed jaws (50, 172), a generally U-shaped body (48, 170) extending through the slots (18, 20; 134; 166; 168) in the other element, and resilient, laterally projecting ramp elements (54, 180) bent out from the body (48; 170), and upper portions (58; 182) engaging with their edges behind the said slots.

6. A pallet according to claim 5, characterized in that the free edges of the upper portions (58; 182) face towards each other.

7. A pallet according to claim 5 or 6, characterized in that the upper portions (182) bear against the edges of widened portions (138) of the slots (134; 166; 168).

8. A pallet according to claim 6 or 7, characterized in that the upper portions (182) bear against flanges on the jaw (172) when the clips are released.

9. A pallet according to any one of claims 5 to 8, characerized in that the jaws (172) have outwardly-directed wing members (176).

10. A pallet according to any one of claims 5 to 9, characterized in that the U-shaped base (170) of the clip comprises lateral cut-aways (188) in the bight-portion thereof.

11. A pallet according to any one of claims 5 to 10, characterized in that the ramp elements (180) of the clip also comprise outwardly-directed locking tabs (186).

Revendications

1. Palette comprenant des éléments de sommier écartés l'un de l'autre parallèles (12; 114) avec des éléments de formation de plancher (14; 116) disposés transversalement à ceux-ci et reliés par agrafage à ceux-ci à chaque intersection, caractérisée en ce que la liaison existant à l'intersection est réalisée par des pinces (46, 112) montées sur un élément (12, 14; 114; 116) et destinées à être insérées dans des fentes (18, 20; 134; 166) de l'autre élément et à y être retenues.

2. Palette selon la revendication 1, caractérisée en ce que les éléments de sommier (12; 114) et les éléments de formation de plancher (14; 116) sont produits à partir d'acier, tandis que les pinces (46; 112), pouvant être séparées

des éléments, sont produits d'une seule pièce à partir d'acier à ressort.

3. Palette selon la revendication 2, caractérisée en ce que les éléments de sommier (114) comprennent plusieurs éléments de pieds creux longitudinalement séparés (118).

4. Palette selon la revendication 3, caractérisée en ce que les pinces (112) sont conçues pour être ajustées sur des rebords dirigés vers l'intérieur (156, 158) des éléments de formation de plancher (116), tandis que les fentes (134, 136) sont ménagées dans la surface de support (122) des éléments de sommier (114) et, si cela est nécessaire, des éléments de pieds (118).

5. Palette selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, caractérisée en ce que les pinces (46, 112) comprennent des griffes opposées (50, 172), un corps sensiblement en forme de U (48, 170) passant au travers des fentes (18, 20; 134; 166; 168) de l'autre élément, des éléments inclinés élastiques latéralement saillants (54, 180) s'incurvant hors du corps (48, 170), et des parties supérieures (58; 182) en prise par leurs bords avec l'arrière desdites fentes.

6. Palette selon la revendication 5, caractérisé en ce que les bords libres des parties supérieures (58; 182) sont tournés l'un vers l'autre.

7. Palette selon la revendication 5 ou 6, caractérisée en ce que les parties supérieures (182) portent contre les bords de parties élargies (138) des fentes (134; 166; 168).

8. Palette selon la revendication 6 ou 7, caractérisée en ce que les parties supérieures (182) portent contre des rebords de la griffe (172) lorsque les pinces sont relâchées.

9. Palette selon l'une quelconque des revendications 5 à 8, caractérisée en ce que les griffes (172) possèdent des éléments ailes orientés ver l'extérieure (176).

10. Palette selon l'une quelconque des revendications 5 à 9, caractérisée en ce que la base en forme de U (170) de la pince comprend des parties découpées latérales (188) dans sa partie coudée.

11. Palette selon l'une quelconque des revendications 5 à 10, caractérisée en ce que les éléments inclinés (180) de la pince comprennent également des pattes de blocage orientées vers l'extérieur (186).

Patentansprüche

1. Palette mit in gegenseitigem Parallelabstand angeordneten Trägerelementen (12; 114) und quer dazu angeordneten Belagelementen (14; 116), welche an jeder Überkreuzung durch Verklammerung damit verbunden sind, dadurch gekennzeichnet daß die Verbindung an der Überkreuzung mittels Klammern (46; 112) bewerkstelligt ist, welche an einem Element (12, 14; 114, 116) angebracht und in Schlitze (18, 20; 134, 166) im anderen Element einführbar und mit ihnen in Eingriff bringbar sind.

2. Palette nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Trägerelemente (12; 114) und die Belagelemente (14; 116) aus Stahl gefertigt sind, während die von den Elementen abnehmbaren Klammern (46; 112) einstückig aus Federstahl gefertigt sind.

3. Palette nach Anspruch 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Trägerelemente (114) eine Anzahl von in Längsabständen angeordneten, hohlen Fußelementen (118) aufweisen.

4. Palette nach Anspruch 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Klammern (112) an einwärts gerichteten Gurtbändern (156, 158) der Belagelemente (116) anbringbar sind, während Schlitze (134, 136) in der Auflagefläche (122) der Trägerelemente (114) und, falls notwendig, der Fußelemente (118) vorgesehen sind.

5. Palette nach wenigstens einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Klammern (46; 112) einander gegenüberstehende Backen (50; 172), einen die Schlitze (18, 20; 134; 166; 168) im anderen Element durchsetzenden, etwa U-förmigen Körper (48; 170) und elastische, seitlich hervorstehende, aus dem Körper (48, 170) herausgebogene Rampenelemente (54; 180) sowie obere Teile (58; 182) aufweisen, welche mit ihren Rändern hinter den Schlitzen in Eingriff sind.

6. Palette nach Anspruch 5, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die freien Ränder der oberen Teile (58; 182) einander zugewandte sind.

7. Palette nach Anspruch 5 oder 6, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die oberen Teile (182) sich in Anlage an den Rändern von verbreiterten Teilen (138) der Schlitze (134; 166; 168) befinden.

8. Palette nach Anspruch 6 oder 7, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß sich die oberen Teile (182) im gelösten Zustand der Klammern in Anlage an Stegen an der Backe (172) befinden.

9. Palette nach wenigstens einem der Ansprüche 5 bis 8, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Backen (172) auswärts gerichtete Flügelteile (176) haben.

10. Palette nach wenigstens einem der Ansprüche 5 bis 9, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die U-förmige Basis (170) der Klammer seitliche Abschnitte (188) im Bereich ihrer Biegung hat.

11. Palette nach wenigstens einem der Ansprüche 5 bis 10, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Rampenelemente (180) der Klammer außerdem auswärts gerichtete Verriegelungslaschen (186) aufweisen.

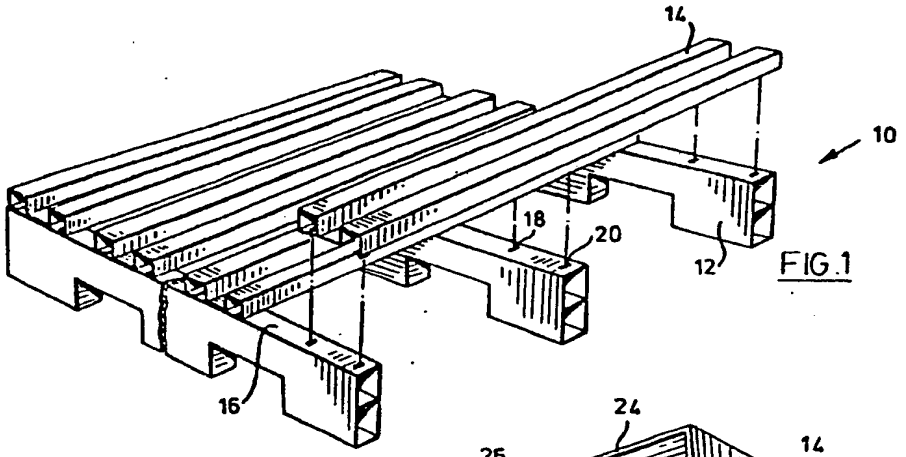

FIG.1

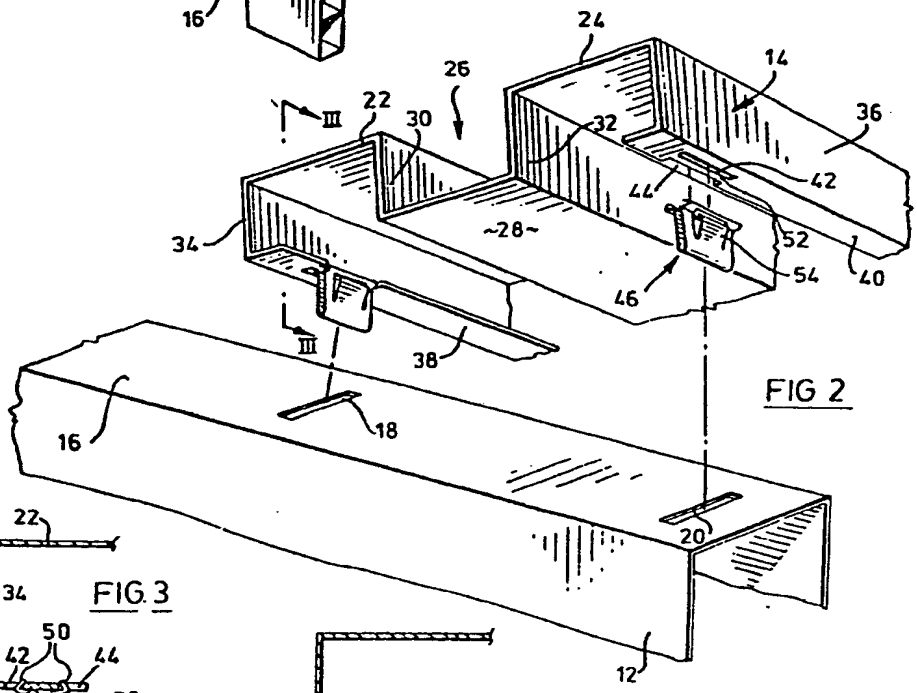

FIG 2

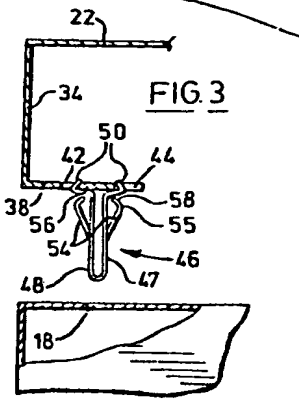

FIG.3

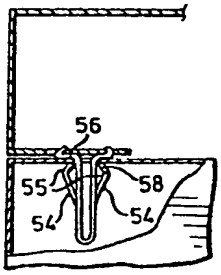

FIG 4

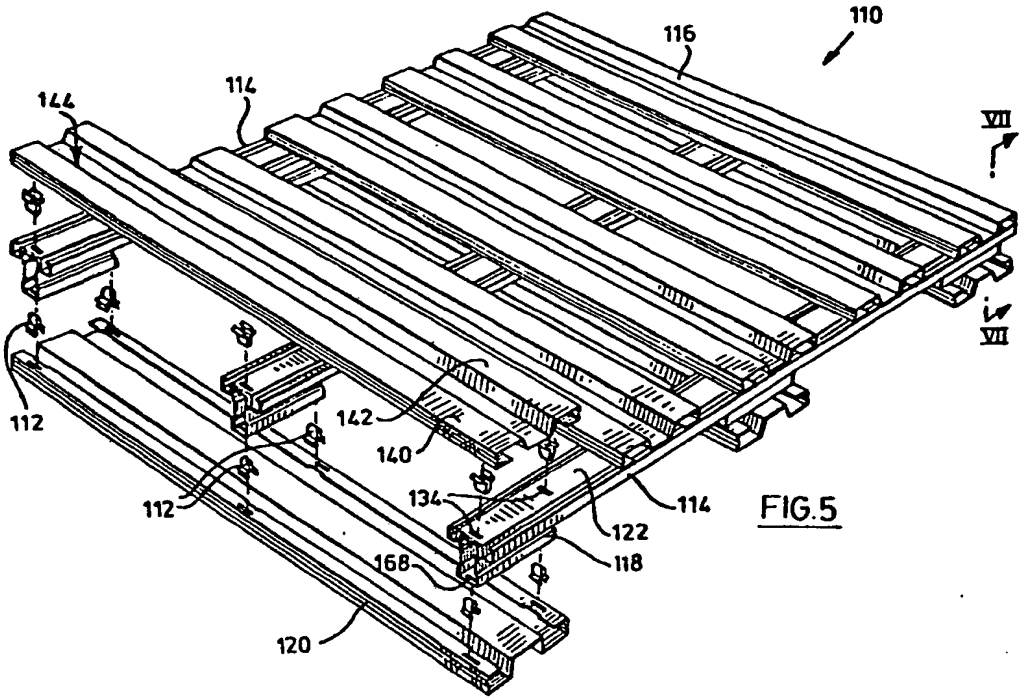
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FIG.5

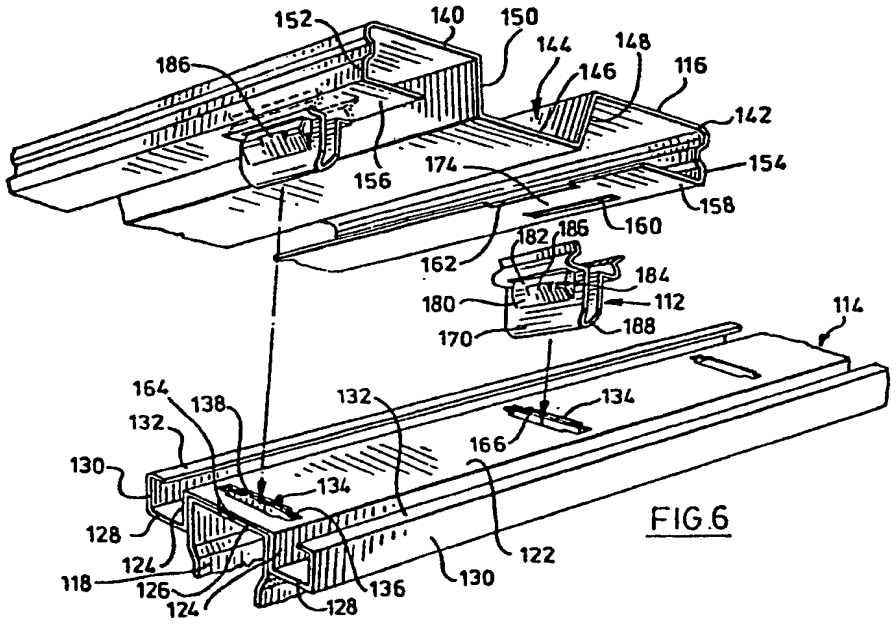
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FIG.6

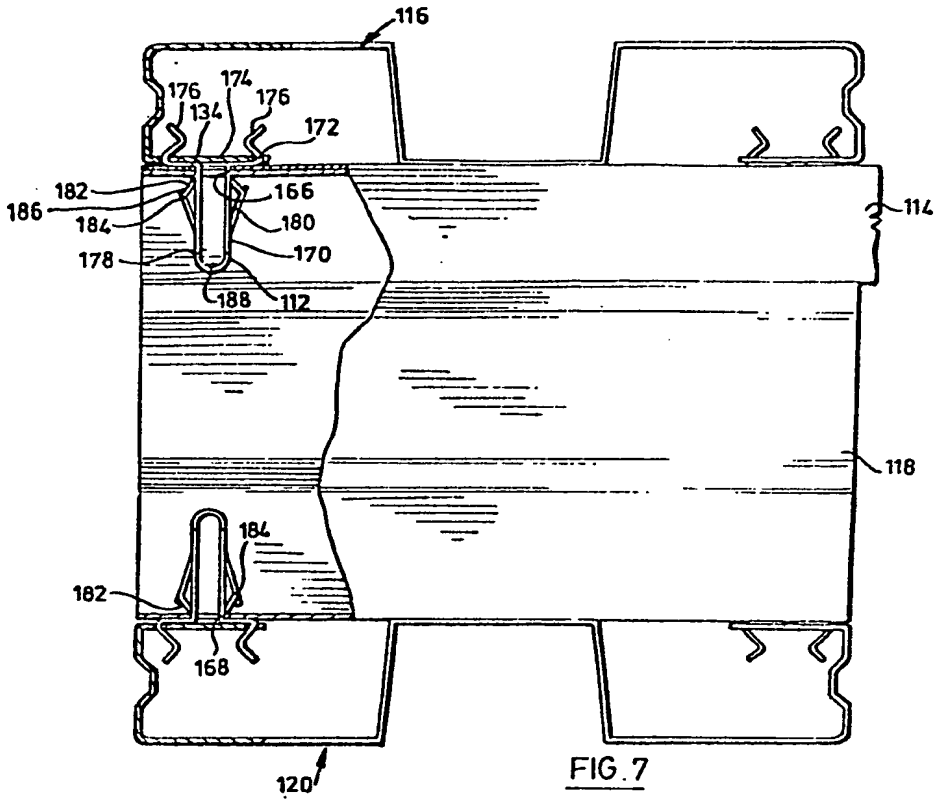

FIG. 7

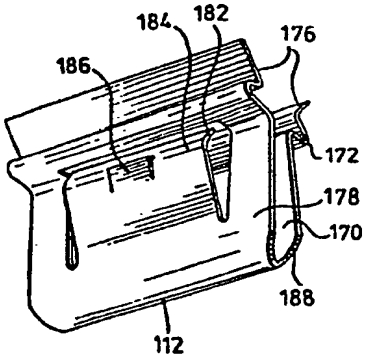

FIG. 8

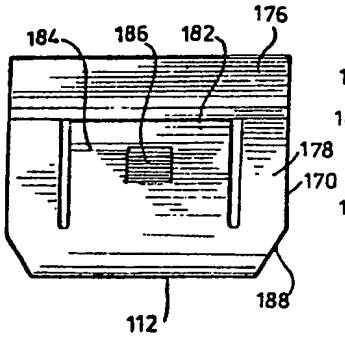

FIG. 9

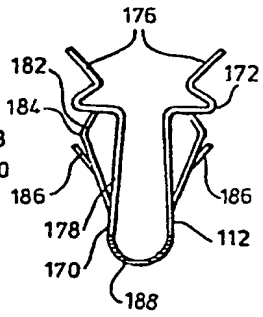

FIG. 10